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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
7 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DCI

SUBJECT : De Gaulle's Speeches in Southeastern France

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1. De Gaulle began his 20th official trip to the provinces on 24 September [redacted]

[redacted] The principal stops on this tour of the four southeastern departments of Vaucluse, Drôme, Ain, and Rhône were at Orange, Carpentras, Avignon, Valence, Oyonnax, Bourg, Villefranche, and Lyon.

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2. The main themes of the tour were: national independence, national unity, economic independence, and De Gaulle's continuation in power.

3. At Orange he stressed the preservation of France's independence between East and West. He said he was able to discern what was useful to the French people and would continue to do so while he still has the strength.

4. At Carpentras, he placed special emphasis on France's economic independence vis-a-vis the "two world hegemonies" and called for "national cohesion" in the economic sphere.

5. At Avignon, Oyonnax, and Bourg, he again stressed national and economic independence, citing the need for stable political and economic institutions and reaffirming his willingness to continue his present functions.

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5. At Bourg and Villefranche on 26 September, he introduced the argument that France's posture of independence in a bipolar world renders a service to both the suppressed and underdeveloped nations of the world. He said that France's example should give them hope that they, too, can find their national identities.

6. His culminating speech at Lyons, treated in our note of 4 October, was a recapitulation of all these themes.